

Expanded Natural Resource Interim Committee
North Idaho Working Group
Meeting Notes from April 21, 2004 Meeting

Working Group Members in attendance:

Rep. Meyers, Chairman
Sen Schroeder
Sen. Compton
Sen. Stegner
Sen Brandt
Rep. Cuddy
Rep. Eskridge

Working Group Members absent:

Sen. Keough

Minutes

Hal Anderson, Administrator, Technical and Planning Division, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), presented a brief background of the water administration issues that led to the current situation.

Mr. Anderson presented an overview of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Hydrologic Project. This project is a joint effort among the states of Idaho, Washington and the United States Geological Survey. The project is in the initial stages of getting underway.

Helen Harrington, Hydrogeologist, Idaho Department of Water Resources, gave a brief summary of the Rathdrum Prairie Ground Water Management Area and the current work by the advisory committee appointed by the Director, IDWR.

The committee discussed its mission and what it should be working toward. The committee agreed that it should be looking at any legislation that comes about should be evaluated to determine how it will affect North Idaho.

The committee requested that maps of the aquifers be prepared for the committee. Color maps will be prepared for committee members by IDWR for the next meeting.

Rep. Meyers suggested that the committee should hear from a number of other agencies and groups at future meetings. The committee also discussed other group that may be affected by the current water issues. The committee mentioned the following list: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Nez Perce Tribe, Washington Department of Ecology, Jeff Sally, irrigation districts, North Kootenai Water District.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 28, at 9:00 am, at the University Inn in Moscow.